

OPTICAL POLARIZER

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Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A reflective polarizer and a dichroic polarizer are combined to provide an improved
optical polarizer. The dichroic and reflective polarizers are typically in close proximity to
each other, and are preferably bonded together to eliminate the air gap between the
polarizers. The combination of the two polarizers provides a high reflectivity of one
polarization and high transmission for the perpendicular polarization from the reflective
10 polarizer side of the combined polarizer, and high absorption and transmission for light of
orthogonal polarization from the dichroic polarizer side. The combination also reduces
iridescence as seen in transmission and when viewed in reflection from the dichroic
polarizer side. The increased extinction ratio and low reflectivity of the optical polarizer
allows use of a lower extinction ratio dichroic polarizer in applications requiring a given
15 extinction ratio and high transmission.

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